



ST. JOSEPH'S

CATHOLIC PARISH LEVIN

Te Pārihi o Hāto Hōhepa Taitoko

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear brothers and sisters,

"You cannot serve both God and mammon."
(Luke 16:13)

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, where God the Son made Himself very poor by emptying Himself to the Father out of love for His Father. This is an eternal act of loving that the Son had before His incarnation, had on the Cross and will eternally have for His Father in heaven. He loves His Father completely and perfectly by emptying Himself to His Father.

In loving the Father completely, the Father returns that love for His Son by the complete and total gift of Himself to His Son. This love of the Father was manifest on Easter Sunday when His poor and dead body in the tomb was filled once more with the Love of the Father. The love of the Father raised Him from the dead and reunited Him with Himself in heaven.

This eternal love that the Father and the Son have for each other is the third person of the Holy Trinity: the Holy Spirit. This Trinitarian Love is what heaven is. This is Eternal Life: the life of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.

To enter into their life of eternal bliss, they have to allow us in. The Father has sent His Son into our lives to invite us in. No amount of money can buy our way into heaven. Our success in getting nearer to heaven can never be measured by the amount of money we have made and accumulated in our bank accounts and investments.

Never should we ever fall for the Devil's temptation to measure our blessedness in this life with the wealth we possess. This prosperity gospel is never from God. It stands in contradiction to the God that hangs naked and humiliated and dead on a Cross.

A wealthy man in this life is always in danger of being attached to his wealth and inclined to love it with all his heart, all his soul, all his mind and all his strength.

A true believer in Christ will imitate Him by loving God the Father with all being. He will empty Himself to the Father by enriching the lives of the poor just as the Creator and Owner of all things made Himself poor on the Cross to make us all rich with true wealth: eternal life with the Holy Trinity and all who believe in Him.

Fr. Simi

OUR PARISH VISION

"A COMMUNITY RADIATING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

Parish Priest: Fr. Simione Volavola
stjosephlevin.priest@gmail.com

Parish Finance Chair: Harry Bennik
stjosephlevin.finance@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Bridget Lobb
027 511 2474
stjosephlevin.office@gmail.com

Office Location and Hours:
56 Weraroa Rd, Levin 5510
Mon-Fri (9-10am) *Outside of these hours, please call the parish office.*



GENERAL NOTICES

IMPORTANT NOTICE - CHURCH ACCESS CODE CHANGE

Next week, the access code for the church will be changed. This change is being made in response to a number of ongoing security concerns. It is important that we act to ensure the safety of our parishioners, our property, and the sacred space of our church.

If you need to access the church after the code is changed, please contact:

- Harry Bennik, our key coordinator, on 027 454 8927, or
- Bridget Lobb, our Parish Secretary, on 027 511 2474.

The Parish Council is also looking into ways to make the church accessible for private prayer. Once a safe and secure plan is in place, we will notify the parish community.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we take these necessary steps to protect and care for our parish.

YOUTH GROUP BREAK

There will be no Youth Group gatherings during the school holidays. We will start back again on Friday, 10 October.

HOLIDAYS

Enjoy the break and see you then!

TUESDAY SOCIAL CLUB

The Tuesday Social Club is being held in the Parish Centre at 12pm this week.
All are welcome!

MEALS ON WHEELS

We are rostered to do the Meals on Wheels in the week of 29th Sept - 03rd Oct.
If you can help please contact Yoka on 022 5022645 or dekkernz@gmail.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FESTIVAL SUNDAY

Saturday, 27 September, marks the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. To celebrate, the Vinnies members will host a Festival Morning Tea in the Parish Centre after Sunday morning Mass on 28 September.



All are welcome to join us in honouring the work of St. Vincent de Paul and celebrating this special day!

SUNSHINE ROCKERS FAMILY GROUP

Join us this Sunday, 21 September for a trip over the new Manawatu Gorge Highway and coffee at Highway 88 in Woodville. Meet in the church carpark at 1pm for car pooling.
All welcome. RSVP Tony and Leonie, tonyleonie@gmail.com or 021 1438043.

SUPPORT JOE PESE - FAIZCUTS BARBERSHOP

We have received a heartfelt request from Joe Pese, a Levin local, who is working hard to start his own barbershop, Faizcuts Barbershop. Joe has a special talent for cutting hair, and after struggling with a medical condition that prevents him from working in labour jobs, he is turning his gift into a business to provide for his family. Joe is fundraising to cover his lease deposit and some equipment. Any support, no matter how small, will help make his dream a reality. Support him here at his [GiveALittle Page](#) or contact the Parish Office for more info.

BE PART OF SOMETHING LIFE CHANGING!

Open Home Foundation International, warmly invites you to a special evening with Lun and Ngaiching Misao, Directors of OHFI's work in Kolkata India. They will share moving stories of children and families whose lives are being transformed from the risk of hunger, exploitation, and trafficking. The event will be held in the St Joseph's School Hall on Wednesday 15 October at 7.00pm. All are welcome – entry free and light supper provided. Contact Chris Olsen 0274477098 for any further information.

MORE NOTICES BELOW

The Spirituality of Generosity

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the amazing generosity that many of you already gift in your time, talents and money.

Last weekend Chris unveiled us our mission statement. The mission statement was put together after prayer and discernment from what you put forward to us at our recent parish pastoral workshop.

Mission Statement

Guided by the Holy Spirit and anchored in the Sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church, our parish strives to be a vibrant, prayerful community that welcomes all, nourishes faith and seeks to serve Christ in everyone we meet.

For us to live out our mission we need resources.

Ask yourself.

Am I contributing adequately without overcommitting? Can I help with community planning by agreeing to weekly autopayments? What can I afford? How can I give more regularly? Could I leave a bequest in my will? *Please pray and discern on this.*

We are called to be generous not because it feels good, but because it reflects who God is, God the ultimate giver, and by sharing our gifts we honour him and the blessings he has bestowed upon us. Through generous acts, we can create a ripple effect of kindness and love in our communities. It's a reminder that our willingness to share in the act of giving, we resemble Jesus more closely.

Our Target

Our target is to get a 30% uplift in gifting, that would keep our finances sustainable going forward without the need to tap into cash reserves as we are now having to do. We need to remove this deficit.

We understand that given the current hard economic times for some of you to gift an extra 30% will be difficult, but for others that can be achievable, and for some of you, you will even be able to gift much more.

The gospel reading today invites us to make choices aligned with God's values rather than worldly gain. Let us be mindful of our responsibilities to one another, pray for the well-being of all, and use our resources in ways that honor God.

How can I help?

The best way to budget for your gifting is by bank auto payments.

BNZ BANK

Account Name: St Joseph's Catholic Parish

Account No: 02-0668-0115553-00

Reference: COLLECTION

You may also choose to use the planned giving envelopes which the finance committee can provide for you. Give serious consideration of a bequest in your will.

Your gifting is tax deductible.

You can claim back 33% of your gifting back from the government. At the end of the financial year, you will be issued a tax receipt to claim back your refund. The finance committee can help you with this if necessary. This means that for every \$10.00 you gift- \$3.30 will be refunded to you or for every \$100.00 you gift- \$33.00 will be refunded. Please take advantage of the tax refund this could help you increase your contribution.

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS

St. Vincent de Paul

As the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul approaches on Saturday, 27 September, it seems fitting to share a little of his story and reflect on his witness of faith, service, and love for the poor.

St. Vincent de Paul was born on 24 April 1581 in Pouy, France, into a poor peasant family as the third of six children. Bright and determined, he studied theology at the University of Toulouse, supported by tutoring work and his father's encouragement. He was ordained at just 19 years old in 1600.

In 1605, while travelling by ship, he was captured by pirates and sold into slavery in Tunis, before escaping two years later. Returning to France, his ministry shifted from serving the wealthy to dedicating his life to the poor, sick, elderly, and prisoners. He founded hospitals, invited the wealthy to support charitable works, and established the Ladies of Charity, the Vincentians, and, with St. Louise de Marillac, the Daughters of Charity—all of which continue to serve worldwide today.

Vincent also reformed the French clergy, pioneering seminaries and retreats that renewed the priesthood. His preaching and teaching touched more than 20,000 people in his lifetime. Known as the "Apostle of Charity" and the "Father of the Poor," he once declared: "There is no charity without justice."

St. Vincent died in Paris on 27 September 1660, aged 79. His incorrupt heart is preserved in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity, while his bones rest in a wax effigy at the Church of the Lazarist Mission, both in Paris.

Two miracles—a nun cured of ulcers and a laywoman cured of paralysis—led to his beatification in 1729 and canonisation in 1737. The Church recognised him for his extraordinary charity and reform of the clergy, later naming him patron of all charitable societies.

Vincent's legacy is immense: it is said he wrote over 30,000 letters in his lifetime, with at least five collections still preserved. His feast day, 27 September, invites us to remember his enduring witness of faith and love in action. *St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.*

READINGS AT SUNDAY MASS

21 September 2025:

1ST Reading: Amos 8:4-7 **2ND Reading:** 1 Timothy 2:1-8 **Gospel:** Luke 16:1-13

Psalm Response: *Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.*

28 September 2025:

1ST Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7 **2ND Reading:** 1 Timothy 6:11-16 **Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31

WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED FAMILY, FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES

May eternal light shine upon them and may they rest in peace,
Amen.

Cheryl Tinga

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa

Charlie Kirk

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

Thank you for your generous donations and support of the Vinnies. We have delivered 67 food parcels in the last month. A highlight was a little girl who came running out when the delivery team arrived who asked, "Do you have milk for my cereal?". She had water in the bowl. She was so happy to see the milk. Breakfast cereal and long-life milk will be welcome to bring another smile. Thank you all.

SVdP Levin Bank Account for donations: 11 6932 0308328 11

Simon (0274 445 757) Margaret (027 439 1426) (John (027 626 4792)

BABY ASSIST

Please keep the gorgeous knitwear coming, mainly for boys' sizes 2 - 6, which would be great!
Also, pants and tops would be greatly appreciated.

Brigette (027 379 2802)

SUZANNE AUBERT SAYS... *All our proceedings must be characterised by the principle of justice. Children are never too young, the aged are never too old to have it meted out to them; the good are never so perfect as to be insensible to its denial.*

Reflection: What exactly do we mean by 'justice'? It must be much more than punishing wrongdoers. Joseph, the 'just man', was unwilling to expose Mary to public shame when he found she was pregnant. Why? Because he recognised a mystery here and was fearful lest he hinder God's plan. In practice for me, it means giving the other person the benefit of the doubt, if there is doubt. And even if there isn't, I must recognise the mystery of God's designs.

Prayer: *Lord, teach me to act with justice in all my dealings with others.*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MON 22 SEP	9:30am No Liturgy (<i>Our Lady, Queen of Peace</i>)
TUES 23 SEP	9:30am Liturgy of the Word (<i>St. Pio of Pietrelcina</i>) 12:00pm Tuesday Social Group
WED 24 SEP	9:30am Holy Mass (<i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>) 10:00am Rosary
THURS 25 SEP	9:30am Liturgy of the Word (<i>Bl. Herman of Reichenau</i>) 7:30pm Christian Meditation in the Side Chapel
FRI 26 SEP	11:00am Exposition, Reconciliation 12:00pm Benediction 12:10pm Holy Mass (<i>Ss. Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs</i>)
SAT 27 SEP	4:15pm Reconciliation 5:30pm Vigil Mass
SUN 28 SEP	9:30am Holy Mass (<i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>) 10:30am St. Vincent de Paul Festival Day Morning Tea (<i>Parish Center</i>) 11:00am Legion of Mary Kiribati Group in the Chapel



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FEASTDAY WEEKEND

SAT 27 SEPTEMBER
FEAST DAY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



St. Vincent de Paul, inspire us to serve
the poor with love and generosity.
Teach us to bring hope and comfort
to those in need, following your
example of selfless service.
Amen.

SUN 28 SEPTEMBER
FESTIVAL DAY SUNDAY

9:30am Mass followed by a festival morning tea
at the Parish Centre provided by the Vinnies
members



Archdiocese of Wellington News

Catholic Social Teaching/Pope Quote



"Just as there is personal pain, so too there is the collective pain in our own day. Entire populations are crushed by the weight of violence, hunger and war, and they cry out for peace. This immense cry challenges us to pray, take action to end all violence, and bring peace to those who suffer. Above all, it pleads with God, whose heart trembles with compassion, to bring his Kingdom. The true consolation we must offer to those around us is showing that peace is possible, and that it grows within each of us, if we do not stifle it'. – Pope Leo XIV, Homily, 15 September 2025.

Come & See Vocations Morning - Saturday 18 October

From 9.30am till 12.30pm @ St Patrick's Church, Kilbirnie.

Are you thinking about priesthood? Join other like-minded young men for a morning of reflection, discussion and fellowship. Text 021 164 5800 or email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz to let us know you're coming!



Inside the Conclave with Cardinal John Dew

Invite your friends, family and coworkers to a very special morning event on Tuesday 7 October 2025 at 6.30am at The Wellington Club (88 The Terrace, Wellington) to find out what happens inside the Conclave, from the only living New Zealander who's been inside. Cardinal John Dew will talk about his time at the Vatican during the funeral of Pope Francis and then taking part in the Conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. Tickets are \$40 per person. There will be light breakfast nibbles, tea and coffee available from 6.30am, with the presentation commencing at 7.00am. Tickets can be booked at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/YVJ>

HOLY HOUR for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

JOIN US for an hour of adoration, reflection and prayer that the Lord may send more workers to the harvest! 7.30-8.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thorndon on Tuesday 23 September and every 4th Tuesday of the month.

Stay Informed on National Safeguarding Efforts

Stay Informed on National Safeguarding efforts: The National Office for Professional Standards (NOPS) is now publishing a quarterly newsletter with updates, resources, and information about the Church's safeguarding efforts.

Read the latest issue here: [NOPS Newsletter](#)

The Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation - Love is a Decision

Register online now on the Archdiocesan website for the next Course, consecutive Sundays 2 & 9 November 10.00am-4.00pm held at St Catherine's College, Kilbirnie. Please note that couples attend both Sundays together in person to complete the course. The November course will be the last course for 2025. The first course in 2026 will be in March. Email: marriage@wn.catholic.org.nz

Hope and Renewal Summit - only a few seats left!



Prayer for the Summit: This week, we pray for healing of our hearts, minds, bodies, and communities. As we continue our journey toward the Summit, we ask the Lord to bring deep renewal to His Church. May the Holy Spirit move in power and may all who attend the Summit experience the peace, freedom, and restoration that only Christ can give. To learn more or support the Hope and Renewal Summit, visit hoperenewalsummit.com or email hoperenewal@pndiocese.org.nz.

Let us pray:

God of mercy, bring healing to hearts, minds, and bodies.

Let this Summit be a place of peace, release, and deep renewal.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, who stood at the foot of the Cross, pray for all who suffer. Holy Spirit, bring consolation and ignite the fire of new life within your Church. Amen.

Care for Creation & Catholic Social Teaching

During September Christians reflect on the need to care for the earth, our common home. This is an integral part of our Catholic tradition of social teaching, which also emphasises themes like solidarity, human dignity, the promotion of peace, and the right of all to what is needed for a decent human life. In our Archdiocese the Commission for Ecology, Justice, and Peace is asked to reflect on church and society in light of this tradition.



The Commission extends an invitation to everyone interested in reflecting on ecology, justice and peace to gather on Saturday 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Mt Victoria. We will celebrate Mass and take time to share and reflect on issues of concern. We hope this will be a time of sharing and of making connections. A plate of food to share would be appreciated. Enquiries to Jim McAloon, jmcaloon@xtra.co.nz



2026

CALLED & EQUIPPED

Adult Formation Programme

Archdiocese of Wellington



JOIN US...
on an exciting, new formation journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry.
For more information, email l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz

Dig deeper into your faith

Learn how to share faith with others

Understand what Church teaching means for us today

Be trained and equipped to serve in your parish community

Called & Equipped Formation Programme

Are you looking for an opportunity to dig deeper into your faith, and to learn how to share it with others? Would You like to know more about what it means to be catholic?

Do you want to serve in your parish community, but feel you don't know enough?

JOIN US on an exciting journey that offers personal faith formation and equips you for ministry and service.

For more information, contact Lucienne Hensel at l.hensel@wn.catholic.org.nz or 04 496 1715.

SACRED MUSIC WORKSHOP



with Dr Robert Loretz

An opportunity to experience the depth and beauty of sacred music. Dr Robert will explore the history of sacred music along with practical singing workshops.

\$20 per person, incl. lunch and afternoon tea



[Register here](#)

Contact:
smoyasinging@gmail.com



11 October 2025
9:00AM –
4:00PM



St Mary's of
the Angels
Parish Hall